

U.S. Patent No. 5,270,831 ("Parulski"). The Examiner also rejected claims 13 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Uekane in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,640,627 ("Nakano").

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5, 11-12, 16-20, 22, and 31-32 as being anticipated by Uekane. In so doing, the Examiner drew Applicant's attention to Figures 12 and 14 of Uekane, as well as col. 1, lines 45-56.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection. Claim 1 recites a method for "viewing an image in an capture unit ." A first orientation is associated with the image, while a second orientation is associated with the image capture unit. The method recited in claim 1 also includes "determining whether the first orientation is different from the second orientation; decompressing the image; and displaying the image in the second orientation." Similarly, claim 18 recites a system for "viewing images in an image capture unit." An image is associated with a first orientation, while the capture unit is associated with a second orientation. The system includes "a display to display the image in the second orientation; wherein the image is decompressed for viewing on the display." Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 18 can be found in Figure 12, step 1008, and Figure 13. Consequently, Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added.

The method and system recited in claims 1 and 18 allow an image capture device, such as a digital camera, to display a previously captured image in the same orientation as the capture device. Typically, a captured image is stored in a compressed format. Consequently, the method and system recited in claims 1 and 18 include decompressing the image for display by the image

capture device. For example, a digital camera in accordance with the method and system recited in claims 1 and 18 could capture a landscape image or a portrait image. Captured images are generally stored in a compressed format, such as JPEG. If the stored image is merely decompressed and displayed on the display of the digital camera, the user may have to rotate the digital camera in order to view the image. The present invention as recited in varying scope by claims 1 and 18 decompresses and displays the image in the same orientation as the digital camera, thereby allowing the user to view the image without rotating the camera.

In contrast, Uekane fails to teach or suggest a method or system for allowing an image capture device, such as a digital camera, to decompress an image and display the image in the same orientation as the image capture device. Uekane is directed at a video camera having a display that can rotate with respect to the camera lens. Uekane, col. 1, lines 7-13. The display in Uekane can only rotate around one axis. Thus, Uekane is concerned with three orientations: normal, self-image picture-taking state I (180 degree rotation in one direction around the joint), and self-image picture-taking state II (180 degree rotation in the opposite direction around the joint). Uekane, col. 10, lines 3-15, Figures 12, 13, and 14. Uekane allows the video image and text superimposed on the video image to be displayed in an upright orientation in any of these three orientations. Uekane, Figures 12, 13, and 14. As a result, a user can view images which are being captured by the video camera.

Although the video camera of Uekane can display a video image and superimposed text in the desired orientation, Uekane fails to teach or suggest a system which also decompresses the image. Applicant can find no mention in Uekane of compression of the images captured by the video camera or decompressing images which are being displayed. Consequently, Uekane fails to teach or suggest the method and system recited in claims 1 and 18, respectively. Accordingly,



Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 18 are allowable over Uekane.

Claims 2-3, 5, 11-12, and 16-17 depend on independent claim 1. Claims 19-20, 22, and 31-32 depend on independent claim 18. Consequently, the arguments herein apply with full force to claims 2-3, 5, 11-12, 16-17, 19-20, 22, and 31-32. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-3, 5, 11-12, 16-17, 19-20, 22, and 31-32 are allowable over Uekane.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner also rejected claims 4, 6-10, 14-15, 21, and 23-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious in light of Uekane in view of Parulski. In so doing, the Examiner state that:

Uekane does not disclose displaying an image when the image is in a portrait orientation or 90 degrees with respect to the display. Parulski does disclose displaying an image when the image is in a portrait orientation (column 3, lines 46-58).

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection. Claims 4, 6-10, and 14-15 depend upon independent claim 1. Claims 21 and 23-30 depend upon independent claim 18. Consequently, the arguments herein with respect to Uekane apply with full force to claims 4, 6-10, 14-15, 21, and 23-30. As discussed above, Uekane fails to teach or suggest a method or system for allowing an image capture device to decompress an image and display the image in the same orientation as the image capture device.

Parulski fails to remedy this defect of Uekane. Parulski is directed at a system for scanning images that have been previously captured on photographic film. Parulski, Abstract lines 1-6. The system of Parulski scans in images on a strip of photographic film. Parulski col. 4, lines 32-37. Once the photographic film has been scanned, a user views the scanned images, determines the orientations of the scanned images, and informs the system of the orientations of the scanned images. Parulski col. 5, lines 63-67; col. 6, lines 9-15. The scanned images are then stored on a transportable medium, such as a CD. Parulski, col. 4, lines 50-59. Once the scanned

images have been stored to a transportable medium, the transportable medium can be taken to a player which allows the scanned image to be displayed. Parulski, col. 4, lines 50-59; Figure 1, item 20; and Figure 4. This player is apparently separate from the unit which scans the images. See Parulski, Figures 1 and 4. The player can use the orientation of the scanned images to display the scanned images in the desired orientation. Thus, the transportable medium is placed in a separate playback unit in order for the images to be displayed in the desired orientation.

Parulski is concerned with processing of still images that have previously been captured on photographic film. This is in contrast to Uekane, which is directed to a video camera. Consequently, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine Parulski with Uekane. Furthermore, even if Parulski is added to the teachings of Uekane, the combination would neither teach nor suggest the method and systems of claims 4, 6-10, 14-15, 21, and 23-30. If Parulski were added to Uekane, the resultant might allow portions of video images captured by the video camera of Uekane to be scanned into the system of Parulski and stored on the transportable medium. However, in order to view the images in the desired orientation, a separate player having the ability to decode the orientation provided by the user is utilized. Consequently, Uekane in view of Parulski still fails to teach a method or system which allows an image capture device to decompress and display images in the same orientation as the image capture device. Uekane in view of Parulski, therefore, fails to teach or suggest the methods and systems recited in claims 4, 6-10, 14-15, 21, and 23-30. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 4, 6-10, 14-15, 21, and 23-30 are allowable over the cited references.

The Examiner also rejected claims 13 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious in light of Uekane in view of Nakano. In so doing, the Examiner stated that:

Uekane does not disclose a direction icon displayed on the display. Nakano does disclose displaying select icons according to the orientation when the camera is capturing an image. This allows the use[r] to identify the orientation in which the



image is being captured by the icon displayed (Figure 8, elements 80, 82, and 84 and column 4, lines 12-27).

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection. Claims 13 and 33 depend upon independent claims 1 and 18, respectively. Consequently, the arguments herein with respect to Uekane apply with full force to claims 13 and 33. As discussed above, Uekane fails to teach or suggest a method or system for allowing an image capture device to decompress an image and display the image in the same orientation as the image capture device.

Nakano fails to remedy the defect of Uekane. Nakano is directed at allowing data to be displayed on a camera when the camera is different orientations. Nakano, Abstract. In order to do so, Nakano provides an LCD display which has an array of segments. Nakano, Figure 5. Different segments in the array may be activated in order to display information in the proper orientation. Nakano, col. 2, lines 56-61 and Figure 5. In an alternate embodiment, Nakano provides different LCD panels which display the same information, but in different orientations. Nakano col. 4, lines 12-27, Figure 8. Although Nakano allows information to be displayed in different orientations, Applicant can find no mention in Nakano of either decompressing an image or displaying the image in the appropriate orientation. Moreover, Applicant can find no mention in Nakano of any manipulation of the image.

Uekane in view of Nakano fails to teach or suggest the method and system recited in claims 13 and 33, respectively. If Nakano were added to Uekane, the video camera of Uekane might be equipped with segmented LCDs, as in Figure 5 of Nakano, or with multiple LCD panels, as in Figure 8 of Nakano. However, the combination would still be incapable of decompressing an image and displaying the image in the proper orientation. Consequently, Uekane in view of Nakano fails to teach or suggest the method and system recited in claims 13 and 33, respectively. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 13 and 33 are

allowable over the cited references.

New Claims

Claim 34 recites a digital camera capable of displaying an image. The image has a first orientation, while the digital camera has a second orientation. The system recited in claim 34 includes:

- means for capturing the image;
- means for storing the image in a compressed format and storing the first orientation . . .
- means coupled with the determining means for comparing the first orientation and the second orientation;
- means coupled with the determining means for rotating the image from the first orientation to the second orientation if the first orientation is different from the second orientation; and
- a display coupled with the rotating means for displaying the image in the second orientation.

Thus, claim 34 recites a digital camera including means for storing the image in a compressed format and storing the first orientation. The digital camera in accordance with claim 34 can also display the image in the same orientation as the digital camera. Claim 35 recites means for decompressing the image. Support for new claims 34 and 35 can be found in Figure 6, Figure 12, step 1008, and Figure 13. Consequently, Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added.

Uekane is directed toward a video camera. In contrast, claims 34 and 35 recite a digital camera. Consequently, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to apply the teachings of Uekane to obtain the digital cameras recited in claims 34 and 35. Furthermore, as discussed above, Uekane fails to teach or suggest decompressing the image for display. For similar reasons, Uekane fails to teach or suggest compressing the image for storage. Moreover, Applicant can find no mention in Uekane of storing the orientation of the image. Consequently,

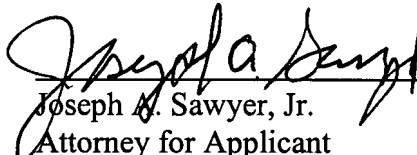
Uekane fails to teach or suggest new claims 34 and 35.

Uekane in view of Parulski also fail to teach or suggest the digital cameras recited in claims 34 and 35. Parulski fails to teach or suggest a mechanism for allowing an image capture device, such as a digital camera, to compress an image and display the image in the same orientation as the digital camera. Uekane in view of Nakano also fails to teach or suggest the digital cameras recited in claims 34 and 35. Although Nakano provides a mechanism for displaying information in a variety of orientations, the combination of Uekane and Nakano still fail to teach or suggest allowing a digital camera to compress an image and display the image in the same orientation as the digital camera. Furthermore, Uekane in view of Nakano also fail to teach or suggest allowing a digital camera to store the orientation of the image. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 34 and 35 are allowable over the cited references.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the claims in the application are patentable over the cited reference and are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections and objections is requested.

Applicant's attorney believes that this application is in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,


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